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1990

**NASA/ASEE SUMMER FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

**UPDATING AND AUGMENTING  
NASA SPACELINK ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My deepest gratitude is hereby extended to the NASA/ASEE Summer Faculty Fellowship Program and its directors for the very rewarding experience afforded me this summer. I pay special tribute to Dr. Frank Six, and Dr. Mike Freeman, the directors of this program. I especially thank my NASA colleagues, Jeff Ehmen, Bill Anderson, and Alan Cunningham who facilitated my summer's experience updating and augmenting the information in the Spacelink Electronic Information System.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

NASA Spacelink is a collection of NASA information and educational materials stored on a computer at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. It is provided by the NASA Educational Affairs Division and is operated by the Public Services and Education Branch of the Marshall Center Public Affairs Office.

It is designed to communicate with a wide variety of computers and modems, especially those most commonly found in classrooms and homes. It was made available to the public in February, 1988. The system may be accessed by educators and the public over regular telephone lines. NASA Spacelink is free except for the cost of long distance calls.

The material prepared for Spacelink has found widespread use by teachers and others across the nation, and is being used to stimulate students in their quest for excellence. The following is a partial summary of Spacelink's usage.

In February, 1990 Spacelink had almost 10,000 registered callers. (Inactive callers drop out after 90 days.) Table 1 shows a positive growth of about 325 callers per month (school months are higher, summer months are lower).

1990	Growth in Callers
March	442
April	375
May	202
June	282
July	170

Table 1

Table 2 gives a summary of the registered callers.

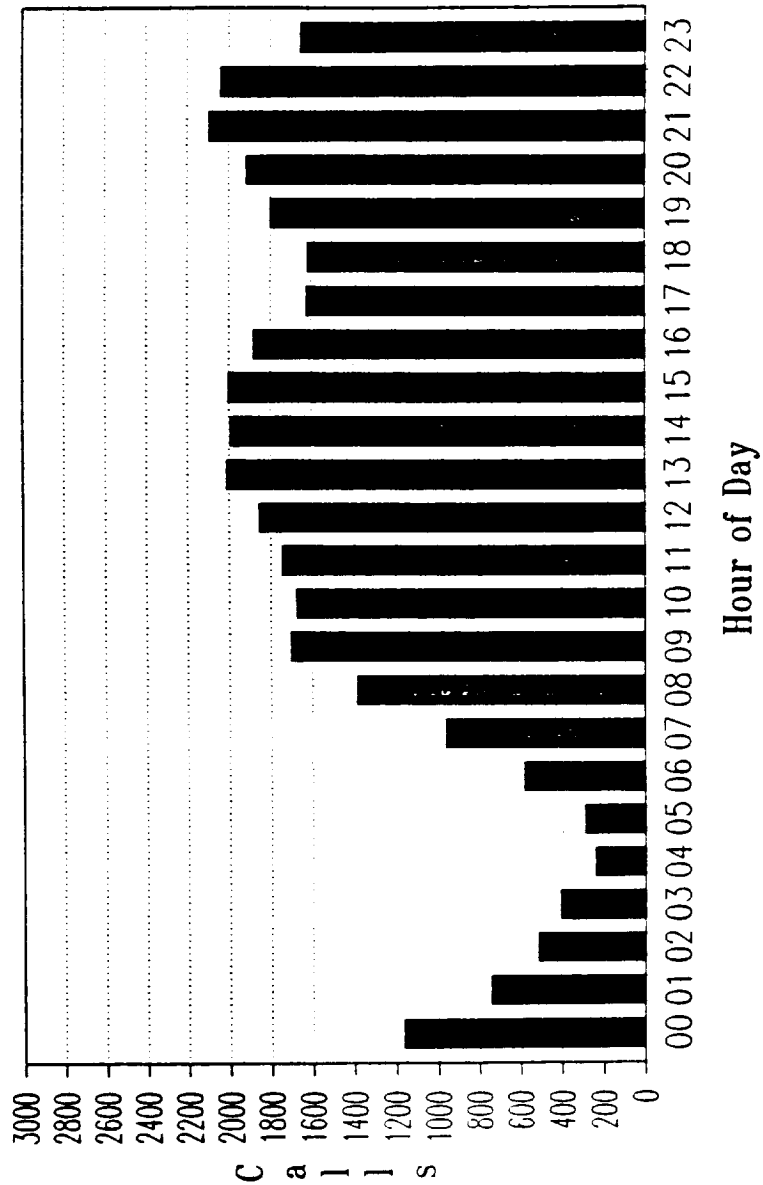
NASA/SPACELINK REGISTERED CALLER SUMMARY  
30-Jul-90 07:52:47

Active Callers	05253
Teachers	00824
Students	01206
Journalists	00147
Other	02751
No category	00325

Table 2

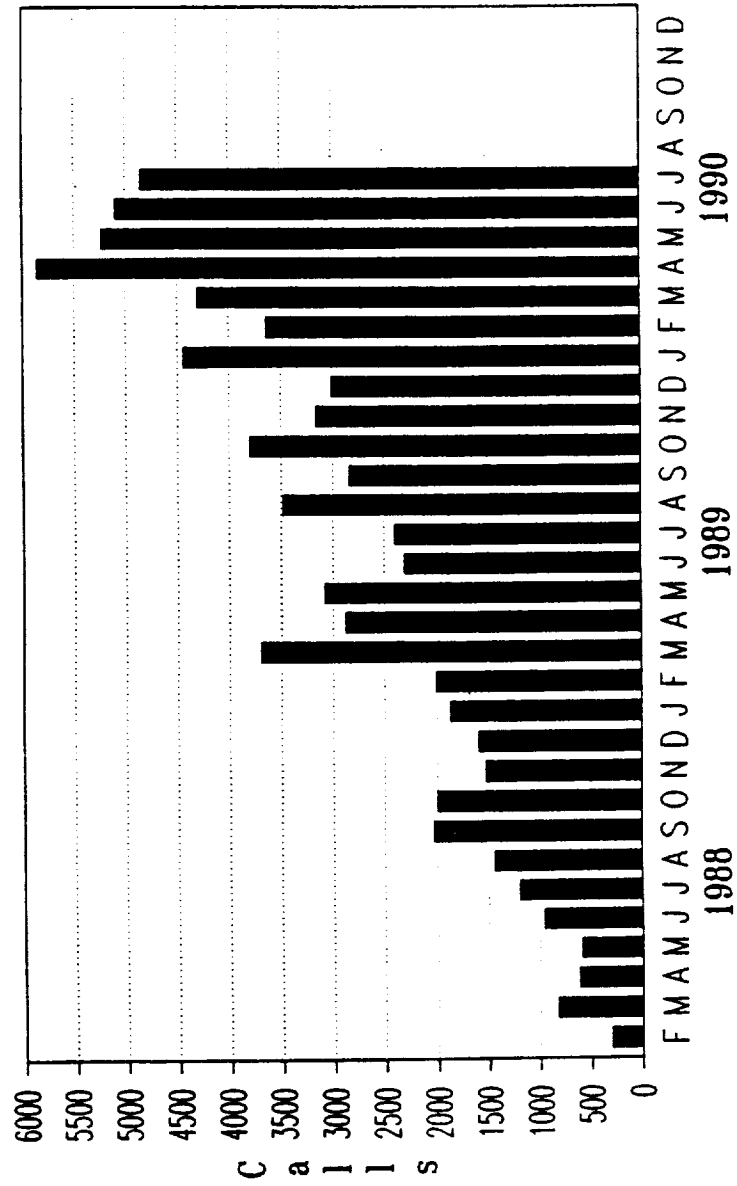
The accompanying four charts -- Calls per Hour, Calls per Month, Files Accessed per Month, and NASA/Spacelink Usage Statistics -- give a partial summary of Spacelink's usage, testifying to the fact that Spacelink is a very worthwhile NASA investment.

# NASA/SPACELINK *Calls per Hour (last 33,926 calls)*

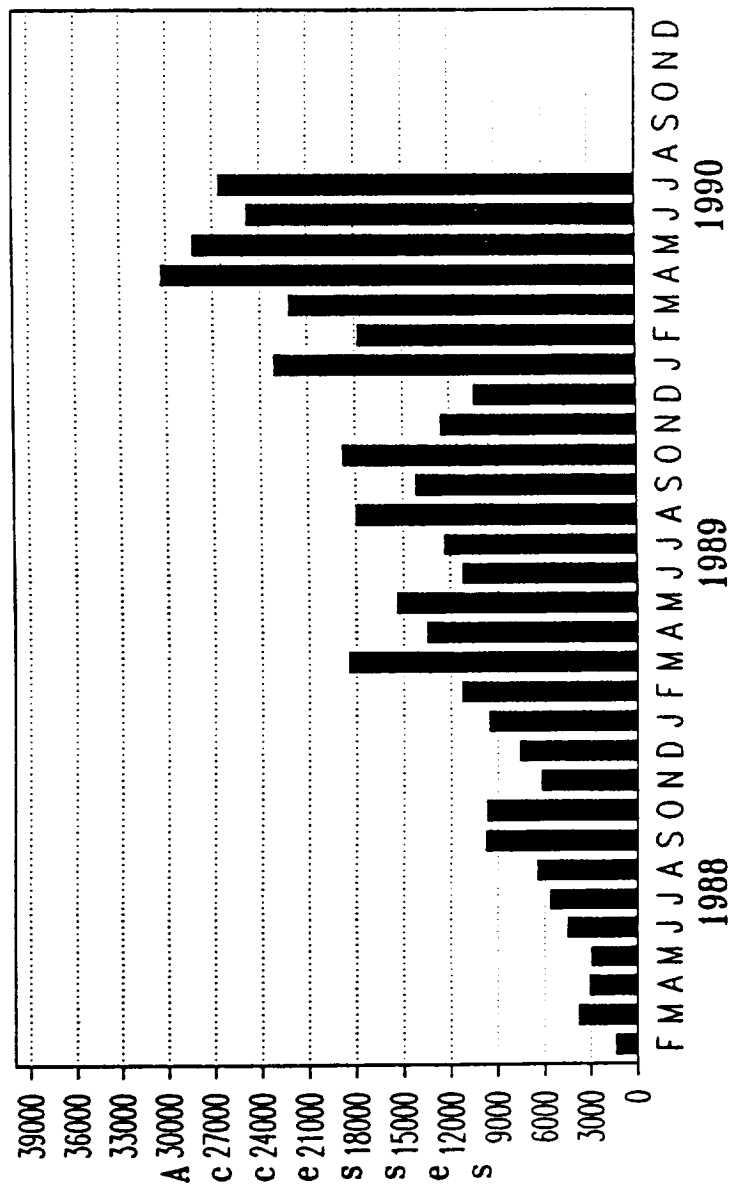


# NASA/SPACELINK

*Calls per Month*



# NASA/SPACELINK Files Accessed per Month



# **NASA/Spacelink Usage Statistics**

## **During an average school year month (April, 1990)**

- 2301 callers made a total of 5929 connections totalling 1088 hours
- Calls from teachers were 17% of connection hours for the month
- Callers made an average of 2 calls per month
- Each connection averaged 12.27 minutes
- Each caller averaged 28 minutes per month
- 2301 callers made a total of 26,399 document accesses
- Each caller accessed an average of 11 documents each month or five documents per call

## **Caller population (April, 1990)**

Total of 4805 registered callers

- 961 Teachers
- 861 Students
- 134 Journalists
- 2552 'Other'
- 297 Gave no information